

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 185208

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SO

SUBJECT: ADDOU - EASUM CONVERSATION

1. SOMALI AMBASSADOR ADDOU, IN BRIEF TOUR D'HORIZON
FOLLOWING RECENT CONSULTATION IN MOGADISCIO, MADE
FOLLOWING POINTS TODAY IN CONVERSATION WITH ASSISTANT
SECRETARY EASUM:

(A) WE SHOULD NOT WORRY ABOUT THE CONTENTS OF THE
FRIENDSHIP TREATY AGREED WITH THE USSR DURING THE RECENT
VISIT TO SOMALIA OF PRESIDENT PODGORNYY. HE CLAIMED
TREATY WAS MERELY A FORMALIZATION OF PREVIOUS ARRANGEMENTS
IN SUCH AREAS AS ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE.

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SOVIETS HAD ASKED FOR "MILITARY AND NAVAL BASES" BUT

SOMALIS HAD REFUSED. EASUM ASKED WHETHER SOVIET REQUEST MEANT NAVAL BASE AT BERBERA AND/OR AIR BASE AT HARGEISA. ADDOU CLAIMED THAT NO SUCH SPECIFIC REQUEST HAD BEEN MADE. HE STRESSED THAT GSDR WISHED OFFER SIMILAR TREATY TO CHINA AND US "IN ORDER TO ASSURE THAT BALANCE WOULD BE MAINTAINED." EASUM REPLIED THAT GOOD RELATIONS DID NOT REQUIRE FORMALIZATION BY TREATY.

(B) EASUM ASKED WHETHER THIS CONCEPT OF BALANCE MEANT THAT US COULD COUNT ON SAME KIND OF ACCESS TO PORT FACILITIES AS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE FOR USSR. AS IS HIS WONT, ADDOU PROVIDED IMMEDIATELY ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE

WHICH BECAME LESS FORTHCOMING UNDER CROSS-EXAMINATION. HE SAID THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM WITH SUCH VISITS, INDICATING THAT DURING HIS RECENT STAY IN MOGADISCIO PRESIDENT SIAD HAD TOLD HIM THAT AMBASSADOR KIRK HAD ONLY TO MAKE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS WITH SOMALI VICE PRESIDENT SAMANTAR. ADDOU SAID HE HAD PASSED THIS WORD TO BOTH AMBASSADOR KIRK AND VICE PRESIDENT. HE THEN PRESENTED THE CONDITION WITH WHICH WE ARE ALREADY WELL FAMILIAR, I.E., THAT ONLY THE TIMING REMAINED TO BE DETERMINED. HE SUGGESTED THAT SUCH A VISIT MIGHT BEST TAKE PLACE AFTER SOMALI NATIONAL DAY, "HOPEFULLY BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR." HE PRESUMED THAT SAMANTAR WOULD GIVE THE SAME INDICATION TO AMBASSADOR KIRK.

(C) AMBASSADOR ADDOU SAID FOREIGN MINISTER ARTEH WOULD PROBABLY BE ATTENDING UNGA SESSIONS IN EARLY OCTOBER AND WOULD HOPE VERY MUCH TO HAVE MEETING WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER EITHER IN WASHINGTON OR IN NEW YORK. EASUM SAID HE WOULD PASS THIS REQUEST TO THE SECRETARY. ADDOU THEN SAID PRESIDENT SIAD WAS CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF ATTENDING THE SESSION HIMSELF SOMETIME IN NOVEMBER, "PROVIDED THE SITUATION IN THE PORTUGUESE AFRICAN TERRITORIES PERMITS HIS DEPARTURE." HE WOULD COME IN HIS CAPACITY AS PRESIDENT OF OAU AND WOULD HOPE TO HAVE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD. EASUM SAID THAT, SHOULD PRESIDENT SIAD COME TO NEW YORK, HIS

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REQUEST TO SEE PRESIDENT FORD WOULD RECEIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION.

(D) EASUM SAID HE WAS CONCERNED BY POSSIBLE UNFAVORABLE REACTIONS FROM STATES NEIGHBORING TO SOMALIA REGARDING THE SOPHISTICATION AND THE QUANTITY OF SOVIET ARMS SUPPLIED TO SOMALIA. HE ASKED WHETHER SUCH ARMAMENT COULD BE JUSTIFIED FROM A DEFENSIVE POINT OF

VIEW. ADDOU PRESENTED ONE OF STRONGEST AFFIRMATIONS WE HAVE YET RECEIVED FROM HIM CONCERNING SOMALIA'S PEACEFUL INTENTIONS REGARDING ITS NEIGHBORS, ETHIOPIA AND KENYA. HE SAID PRESIDENT SIAD REALIZED AND WAS SYMPATHETIC WITH THE INTERNAL PROBLEMS BESETTING ETHIOPIA. HE INSISTED THAT SOMALIA WOULD TAKE NO RPT NO PROVOCATIVE ACTION, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF ITS NEED TO CONCENTRATE ITS EFFORTS "OVER THE NEXT TEN OR TWENTY YEARS" ON THE INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT OF ITS COUNTRY. HE SAID SIAD HAD GIVEN SUCH ASSURANCES TO EMPEROR IN THEIR CONVERSATIONS AT OAU SUMMIT IN MOGADISCIO IN JUNE. ADDOU THEN RESTATED SOMALIA'S NEED FOR MILITARY STRENGTH FOR

SOLELY DEFENSIVE PURPOSES, ILLUSTRATING THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE NEED BY NOTING HOW PAINFUL IT WAS TO BE OBLIGED SPEND SCARCE HARD CURRENCY FOR EXPENSIVE NEW WEAPONRY. KISSINGER

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